IN THE CLAIMS

The amend the claims as follows:

~~CLAIMS~~WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising a transponder, programmable or not, enclosed in a shell, said shell comprising an open-ended or blind axial transverse passage ~~(4)~~ for a fixing means to the ear of the animal, characterised in that:

the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell ~~(1)~~ and an upper half-shell ~~(2)~~, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial passage opening ~~(4)~~ for the fixing means,

the transponder ~~(3)~~ is fixed in place without compression between the two half-shells using a glue ~~(16)~~,

the two half-shells are assembled by means of a laser weld.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 1 characterised in that the two half-shells ~~(1 2)~~ are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffening the shell and to fixing the internal transponder in place.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ characterised in that the upper half-shell ~~(2)~~ comprises a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis, wherein a cylindrical wall ~~(5)~~ projects outwards on a planar wall ~~(6)~~ and is extended by an inner cylindrical wall ~~(7)~~ below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding cylindrical wall ~~(12)~~ on the lower half-shell ~~(1)~~, the

planar wall of the upper half-shell being connected ion its periphery to a vertical cylindrical wall ~~(9)~~ connecting it to the lower half-shell ~~(1)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 3 characterised in that the lower half-shell ~~(1)~~ comprises a cylindrical inner wall ~~(12)~~ around its median axis corresponding to that ~~(5)~~ of the sleeve of the upper half-shell and providing the transverse passage, ~~passage for the fixing means of the button tag to the animal's ear,~~ that it is provided with an internal projection ~~(15)~~,
that it is provided with a projecting peripheral rim ~~(13)~~ cooperating with the orthogonal peripheral wall ~~(9)~~ of the upper half-shell.
5. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 4, characterized in that an internal projection ~~(15)~~ is placed between the internal cylindrical wall ~~(12)~~ and the peripheral rim ~~(13)~~.
6. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 4, characterized in that the internal projection ~~(15)~~ is of a lesser height than the clear height within ~~in~~ the button tag.
7. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 6~~, characterised in that the cylindrical wall ~~(12)~~ of the lower half-shell has a conical form with an upper shoulder ~~(17)~~ enabling the tip of the punch of a male panel tag to be locked in.
8. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 7 characterised in that the sleeve is blind on the upper half-shell.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to ~~any one of the~~ claims 3 ~~to~~ 8, characterised in that the ends of the vertical walls ~~(7/9)~~ of the upper half-shell ~~(2)~~ are provided with flux cores (10).

10. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to claim 1, characterised in that the processor ~~(3")~~ of the transponder ~~(3)~~ is folded down onto the coil ~~(3')~~, the unit being fixed into position by the glue ~~(16)~~.

11. (Original) An Electronic button tag according to claim 9, characterized in that the flux cores are welded by use of a laser.

12. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 11~~, characterised in that the lower half-shell ~~(1)~~ is provided with a peripheral rim ~~(13)~~ which on assembly fits into the external shoulder ~~(11)~~ of the vertical wall ~~(9)~~ of the upper half-shell ~~(2)~~.

13. (New) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle including a transponder, programmable or not, enclosed in a shell, the shell being composed of a first shell portion and a second shell portion which are assembled together at a median plane, the transponder is fixed in place without compression between the two shell portions using an adhesive and the two shell portions are assembled by means of a laser weld, and the two shell portions are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, the second shell portion including a sleeve with a central opening around a median axis, said sleeve projects outwards from one side of a planar wall and is extended by a cylindrical wall extending from an opposite side of

said planar wall to connect with a cylindrical wall of the first shell portion, a planar wall of the first shell portion being connected at its periphery to the second shell portion.

14. (New) An electronic button tag according to claim 13 wherein the cylindrical wall of the first shell portion provides a passage for a punch of a male tag for fixing the tag to the ear of an animal, said cylindrical wall of the first shell portion having a conical form and providing a shoulder within the sleeve to enable a tip of the punch of a male tag to be locked n the sleeve.
15. (New) An electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14 wherein an internal projection is located between the cylindrical wall and a peripheral rim of the second shell position, the internal projection being of a height less than the distance between the planar walls of the first and second shell portions.
16. (New) An electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 or 14 wherein the sleeve is blind.
17. (New) An electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14 or 15 wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores.
18. (New) An electronic button tag according to claim 14 or 15 wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are welded by use of a laser.

19. (New) An electronic button tag according to claim 17 or 18 wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

20. (New) An electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 or 14 wherein a processor of the transponder is located on the coil, the unit being fixed into position by the adhesive.

21. (New) An electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sleeve is blind, the ends of the cylindrical wall and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are welded by use of a laser.

22. (New) An electronic button tag according to claim 21 wherein the first shell portion is provided is with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.